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SHILDON URBAN DISTRICT.

REPORT

Don

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

TO

SHILDON

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1909.


S. FIELDEN,

M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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TO THE SHILDON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for 1909.

Vital Statistics.

The estimated population at mid-year was 13,977.

The number of occupied houses was 3,280, which yields an average of 4.26 persons for each house.

Births.

456 births were registered during the year (240 males and 216 females); and of this number 5 boys and 8 girls were illegitimate.

In 1908 the births numbered 511.

The birth rate for 1909 was 32.6 per 1000 of population, as compared with a rate of 37.5 in 1908.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered *in the district* amounted to 187, and to this number is to be added 9, of persons who died in Public Institutions *outside the district*, which brings up the total to 196.

(Of these 109 were males, and 87 females.) This gives a death rate of 14·02 per 1000 of population, against 15·4 in 1908, and is I believe, the lowest death rate of which I have any record, with the exception of 1902, when it reached 13·5.

The deaths under the age of 1 year numbered 44, which is equal to a rate of 3·14 per 1000 of population, and of 96·49 per 1000 born.

The deaths from Zymotic Diseases, viz.: Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, Fevers (Enteric and Continued, &c.), Measles, Whooping Cough and Diarrhœa amounted to 20, which is equal to a rate of 1·4 per 1000 of population, against 2·3 in 1908.

Phthisis caused 13 deaths, equal to a rate of 0·93 per 1000 of population, against 1·38 in 1908.

The deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy amounted to 29, equal to a rate of 2 per 1000 of population, against 2·55 in 1908, and 4·1 in 1907.

Injuries of various kinds caused 9 deaths.

The deaths of persons *belonging to the district*, but which took place in the following Public Institutions *outside of it*, were—

Lady Eden Cottage Hospital, Bishop Auckland	3
Union Workhouse	3
Infectious Diseases Hospital, Tindale Crescent	2
County Lunatic Asylum, Sedgfield	1
	<hr/> 9

Of these, 6 were males, and 3 females.

For comparison the following tables show—

1.—Annual Birth rates and Death rates and rates from the 7 chief Epidemic Diseases.				
Annual Rates for 1909 per 1000 living.				Deaths under 1 year per 1000.
	Births	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths from 7 chief Epidemic Diseases.	Registered Births.
England & Wales	25·6	14·5	1·12	109
Administrative County of Durham	35·5	15·7	1·61	124
Schildon U. District	32·6	14·05	1·4	96·49

2.—The general Mortality at ages specified in 1909.

At all Under ages. 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90
196 44	28	12	6	61	12	22	11

3.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1909.

	At all ages.	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	over 65
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlatina ...	40	—	15	22	2	1	—
Diphtheria ...	41	—	8	27	4	1	1
Enteric Fever ...	10	—	—	2	3	5	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ...	12	—	—	2	5	2	3
Totals ...	104	—	23	53	14	10	4

1. Cases of Infectious Disease notified in :

	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Scarlatina ..	40	28	45	50	68	94	105	98	88
Diphtheria ..	41	47	42	30	55	59	143	33	3
Enteric Fever	10	26	8	134	33	45	16	15	39
Puerperal Fever	1	—	2	—	1	2	1	—	—
Erysipelas ..	12	8	16	18	12	10	13	13	11
Totals ..	104	109	113	232	169	210	278	159	141

During the year 61 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Tindale Crescent, viz. :

Diphtheria 29
 Enteric Fever 9
 Scarlatina 23

—
 61

5. -Population, Birth Rate, Death Rate, &c., for 10 years, 1889-1898.

Year	Estimated Population at Mid-Year.	Births	Rate per 1000 popula- tion.	Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Zymotic Diseases Deaths.	Rate per 1000 popula- tion.	Deaths at all ages	Rate per 1000 popula- tion.
1889	9,408	359	38.2	71	198	36	3.83	193	20.5
1890	9,496	326	34.3	56	170	27	2.79	177	18.7
1891	9,589	412	42.9	70	169	27	2.81	227	23.3
1892	9,790	371	37.8	51	137	10	1.02	162	16.5
1893	9,997	355	35.5	85	239	82	8.3	253	25.3
1894	10,209	342	33.5	49	143	7	0.68	145	14.2
1895	10,425	393	37.6	77	195	31	2.97	195	18.6
1896	10,645	326	30.6	43	131	19	1.78	160	15.0
1897	10,871	350	32.1	56	160	15	1.37	180	16.8
1898	11,101	356	32.0	89	224	33	2.97	192	17.2
Averages for 10 yrs 1889-1898	10,153	369	35.5	63	176	28	2.85	188	18.7

6.—Population, Birth rate, Death rate, &c., for 10 years, 1899-1908.

Year	Estimated Population at Mid-Year	Births.	Rate per 1000 popula- tion	Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1000 Births register'd	Zymotic Diseases Deaths.	Rate per 1000 popula- tion.	Deaths at all ages	Rate per 1000 popula- tion.
1899	11336	383	33.7	70	182	26	2.28	205	18.0
1900	11576	353	30.4	55	155	18	1.55	188	16.2
1901	11821	404	34.1	76	188	48	4.06	206	17.4
1902	12071	385	31.8	53	137	11	0.91	163	13.5
1903	12326	479	38.8	87	181	33	2.67	219	17.7
1904	12587	459	36.4	92	200	28	2.20	250	19.8
1905	12853	460	35.7	92	167	35	2.70	247	19.2
1906	13125	509	38.7	97	190.5	68	5.18	273	20.8
1907	13403	433	32.3	79	182	27	2.00	249	18.5
1908	13687	514	37.5	52	101	32	2.30	211	15.4
Averages for 10 yrs 1899-1908	12,478	434	35	76	169	32.6	2.59	215	17.6
1909	13977	456	32.6	44	96.4	20	1.4	196	14.02

Infectious Diseases.

Smallpox.

No case was reported.

Scarlatina.

From the early part of the year right up to the beginning of December this disease was more or less prevalent, 40 cases having been notified. It was, however, principally of mild type, and only one case proved fatal. 23 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and in those cases which were not removed, fairly good isolation was kept up at their own homes as is done to the greatest extent possible in all cases so treated. It is only right, however, to urge that in cases of infectious disease treated at home *really thorough and efficient isolation* is almost impossible in a District such as this. There are two chief reasons for this, viz.: (a) the houses of the working classes being small and for the most part occupied to their full extent, and (b) the person in attendance on the patient, in many instances, must pass more or less frequently in and out of the sick room for the purpose of preparing food as well for the patient as for other members of the household.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

41 cases were notified, of which 29 were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and 2 had a fatal termination. For the most part, the disease was mild in type. For a number of years now Diphtheria has been more or less prevalent in the County of Durham, but in this particular District the case mortality has remained fairly low.

I am glad to say that during the year at my request the Council decided to supply Diphtheria Antitoxic Serum gratuitously to Medical Practitioners for use in the District, and although this fact was notified to them little advantage has been taken of it.

As I consider it so important to keep the mode of spread of this disease before the Public mind, I do not hesitate to incorporate into this Report what I said on this subject in my Annual Report for 1908, as being in every way applicable to the year under review, as follows:—"With regard to its causation, undoubtedly insanitary conditions in and about dwellings render the inmates more susceptible to disease of every kind; it is now very generally admitted, however, that it is for the most part spread by direct infection, and in several instances there was evidence of this by the too early attendance at school of children who had apparently recovered from the disease. It cannot be too generally known (as I have on many previous occasions pointed out), that persons convalescent

from Diphtheria continue to be infectious for some time after they have *apparently* recovered—the Diphtheritic bacilli being still present and active in the throat and nose. They are *carriers* of the disease and a constant source of danger to those coming into contact with them, and before declaring them free from infection, it is very desirable that at least one or two swabs be taken from the throat and submitted to bacteriological examination with a view to discovering the presence or absence of the bacillus.”

Where the disease occurred, with very few exceptions, no insanitary conditions were found in the dwellings or their surroundings. In my last Annual Report I stated that the “Head Teachers in the several schools in the district had been requested to exclude children suffering from sore throat, or who were otherwise out of sorts, during the prevalence of Scarlatina and Diphtheria; and that at such times School Attendance Officers should not be too energetic for the sake of keeping up a good attendance,” and I think it very desirable that these matters should still receive attention. I am still of opinion that more attention should be paid to the thorough ventilation of schools when children are absent at meal times, &c., and I would also strongly advise that all the various Class-rooms should be sprayed with an approved disinfectant at least once a week, say, on the Friday evening or Saturday morning. I feel sure that these measures would tend to promote the health of the children and prevent the spread of disease. Local authorities

would be well advised if they offered to supply the necessary disinfectant, and they would be more than repaid by the lessened expenses in other directions."

In this connection, the following quotation from the Newcastle Daily Journal, of 13th Oct., 1908, is of much interest.

" BACTERIA IN SCHOOL.

Some Interesting Spraying Experiments.

With a view to the restriction of infectious disease, an interesting series of experiments has just been carried out by the Bucks Education Committee, under the direction of Mr. W. H. Marsh, B. Sc., staff Science master of Bucks County Council.

Mr. Marsh's report to the Council states that for the past six months the floors of twenty-five schools in the County have been sprayed nightly with a liquid germicide, and the attendance compared with that of a similar number of schools in which the process has been omitted. The cost up to date has been £22 10s., and the calculated increase of grants due to the additional attendance in the disinfected schools as compared with the non-disinfected schools amounts to £37 7s. 6d."

Enteric Fever.

10 cases were notified,—of which one had a fatal termination, and 9 of them were removed to

the Isolation Hospital. One case was reported from Charles Street in February; one from Kilburn Street in May; one from Queen Street in August; two from Albion Avenue, one from Scott Street and one from Hudson Street in September; one from Pearl Street and one from Fryer Street in October; and in December one from Quarry Top.

With the exception of the case in Queen Street where certain insanitary conditions were found, there was nothing discovered as probable causes. The cases were spread over the District, and were removed to Hospital as soon as possible after notification. The ashpits, &c. were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, the rooms stoved, and bedding disinfected.

Measles.

This disease is not notifiable. It was very prevalent, however, in the first quarter of the year, but was for the most part of mild type, and seven cases proved fatal.

Whooping Cough.

No great number of cases occurred, and none had a fatal termination.

Diarrhœa.

The cold unseasonable weather we experienced in Summer and Autumn undoubtedly led to a marked decrease in the number of cases of this disease, as ordinarily met with, at those periods. As I have often before pointed out, Diarrhœa is the result of filth, and want of cleanliness in and about dwellings, leading to the development of organisms, responsible, during the prevalence of hot weather, for such diseases as Diarrhœa and Enteric Fever. Nine cases had a fatal termination.

Infantile Mortality.

Last year it was a pleasure to me to refer to the year 1908 as a record one for this District from the Board's formation, the number of deaths under 1 year of age being 52, representing a rate of 101 per 1000 born, as compared with 153 for the County of Durham.

It is a very great satisfaction therefore, to record a further reduction in 1909, the total deaths under 1 year of age being 44, which represents a rate of 96·4 per 1000 born, as compared with 124 for the County of Durham.

The average rate per 1000 born in this District for the 10 years 1889--1898 was 176, and for the following decade, 1899--1908, it was 169.

No doubt climatic conditions were favourable to infant life so far as Diarrhoea was concerned, but I do not regard that as the only factor which produced such a marked decrease.

The Lady Health Visitor, Miss Ryan, has now been at work in the District for more than 12 months, and I am fully persuaded that her services have very materially conduced to this result.

I have every reason to think that her labours have been appreciated, and I know of many persons who have been most grateful for her advice.

I feel sure that a continuance of this and kindred work will have a very beneficial effect on the child-life of this District.

General Sanitation.

I have frequently made inspections of the District in the course of the year, and from time to time I have been accompanied by your Surveyor, Mr. Turnbull. I have also to acknowledge assistance and advice from Dr. Hill, the County Medical Officer, who was good enough to visit several insanitary areas with me.

Many insanitary conditions were discovered and dealt with. A considerable number of Privy Middens were demolished and replaced by W.C.'s. The Public Health Acts Amendment Act was adopt-

ed and has been in operation since July, and from that time all new houses have been supplied with W.C.'s., and many of them with Baths. A number of baths have been erected in other houses in the district. In all Infectious cases notified, investigations have been made, and any sanitary defects attended to ; I may say, however, that none of any serious nature were found.

The owners of the property in Queen Street have decided to carry out very extensive improvements. Two very indifferent cottages will be removed entirely. The whole area will be redrained, the privy ashpits abolished and W.C.'s. substituted. Each house will be provided with a separate cemented yard, and the back street paved with Scoria Bricks.

In Fryer Street some back to back houses will be converted into through houses, and on the West side of the street some insanitary Privy Middens will give place to W.C.'S., and Receptacles for dry ashes.

With few exceptions the houses in this District are of a better class than those obtaining in the surrounding mining districts, but there are some at present unoccupied which will not be allowed to be tenanted again without being thoroughly overhauled. There are some, also, where the yards and conveniences must receive attention as soon as the weather will permit.

The people themselves, by increased cleanliness and care could do much to improve the sanitary condition of their dwellings and surroundings.

The sewers during hot and dry weather were frequently flushed, and at times Germicidal Disinfectants were added to the water.

Four front streets and eight back streets were made during the year, and others are being proceeded with.

Sewage Disposal Works.

These have been in satisfactory operation, and the resulting effluent has been excellent.

Refuse Destructor.

9715 loads of refuse have been destroyed, and in addition 1679 loads have been carted on to farm land in the neighbourhood.

Scavenging.

This on the whole has been done satisfactorily, the ashpits have been cleared on an average every 10 or 14 days. Very few complaints of inattention in this matter have reached me. It is entirely in the hands of the Local Authority.

Factories and Workshops

There are 14 Factories and 42 Workshops on the Register. They were each inspected twice during the year, and found satisfactory.

Cowsheds and Milkshops.

These have been inspected two or three times during the year. The Cowsheds are only wooden erections, with very few exceptions, and most of the Milk Shops are capable of improvement.

Slaughter Houses.

These for the most part are kept in fairly good order, and all have been inspected twice and some of them more frequently during the year.

These have not been inspected at times of slaughtering. No Certificated Inspector for meat has been appointed for the District.

Water Supply.

This is from the Weardale and Consett Water Company, which obtains its supply from a distant Moorland District and is in every way excellent.

Sanitary Requirements.

1. To continue the abolition of Privy Middens.
2. To continue the cementing or asphaltting of open spaces and back yards.
3. To continue with the making of front and back streets.
4. The erection of new Cowsheds and Dairies.

I have filled in Statistical Forms and will forward copies of same to The Home Secretary, The Local Gov. Board, County Council, &c.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. FIELDEN,

M.O.H.

Summary of Work done in Inspector of Nuisances Department.

I. Public Health Acts.

Structural Defects	...	...	6
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	27
New Water Closets in Old Property	...	...	17
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	10
Defective Traps	...	...	7
House Drainage Defects	...	...	38
Animals improperly kept	...	...	1
			<hr/>
			106

II. Housing of Working Classes Act.

Formal Notices Served	...	...	8
Dwellings dealt with	...	...	2
Dwellings made habitable after formal notice			2
New Houses erected, certified and occupied			42

Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Lots of bedding stoved	...	...	71
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease			59

ANNUAL REPORT
TO
THE MEMBERS OF
SHORT HEATH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

BY
JOHN T. HARTILL,

L.R.C.P.L., M.R.C.S. Eng., J.P.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

January 22nd, 1910.

Summary of Vital and Mortal Statistics for 1909.

Area... .. 1,063 acres.

Population :—

Census, 1901	3,531
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Estimated, 1909	3,989
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Number of Inhabited Houses :—

Census, 1901	722
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Estimated, 1909	826
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Average Number of Persons per House	...	4.8
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Density	3·7 per acre.
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Births	131
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Birth-rate	32.8
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Deaths	56
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Death-rate	14.0
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Zymotic Death-rate	0·7
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Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births registered	122.1
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Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1909.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In this my 39th Annual Report, I am pleased to inform the Council, that, though there were months in the year when sickness was severe and the death rate high, during most of the year the health of the people was fairly good.

The District stands high above the sea level, with open country all round it, and very little smoke is given off from the factories. Roughly speaking it consists of five villages, inhabited chiefly by lock and key smiths engaged for the most part in small workshops which appear to be doomed to extinction in the near future, and by coal miners who work in the adjoining Rural District. The Miners were far from fully employed. If anything can increase the prosperity of workers in the hardware trade, it is a more general use of gas and electric motors. The Council might procure an extension of the electric mains, if they could show that the demand for electricity would be sufficient to justify the outlay.

The Birth and Death Rates calculated on an estimated population of 3989, were respectively 32·8 and 14·0 per thousand per year. The averages in the ten preceding years were respectively 37·5 and 14·8. The Death Rate from preventable diseases was 0·7 as compared with an average of 1·7 in the ten preceding years. Including the deaths of five persons belonging to Short Heath outside the District, the net deaths belonging to the District give a Death Rate of 15·2 per thousand, as compared with an average of 15·5 in the ten preceding years. The population was estimated as follows. At the end of the year there were 842 houses, of which 826 were occupied at the middle of the year. Allowing to each house 4·8

persons, as at last two Censuses, and adding on an average of 25 residents in the Union House, the figures 3989 were arrived at, and the total corresponds within 5 of the number shown in the Sanitary Inspector's house to house inspection book. There were no Common Lodging Houses ; but 79 persons were either domestic servants or in lodgings.

The deaths of children under a year old per 1000 births registered were 122·1, as compared with an average of 140·9 in the ten preceding years—a very satisfactory decrease. Of the sixteen children who died under a year old four were prematurely born ; the death of one was registered as due to Congenital Disease ; whilst five others were probably weaklings from birth. The Notification of Births Act 1907 has not been adopted by the Council, and no intimation has been given me, that they are likely to adopt it in the near future. Its adoption would do no good unless a Female Health Visitor were appointed to work it.

Thirteen cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 of Typhoid Fever, and 2 of Pulmonary Consumption were certified under the Notification Act, or the Pulmonary Tuberculosis Regulations. Of other Contagious or Infectious Diseases there came to my knowledge—Measles, 22 ; Whooping Cough, 5 ; Chicken Pox, 28 ; Diarrhœa, 2 ; Mumps, 27 ; and Influenza, 2. Of these 2 died from Whooping Cough, 1 from Measles and 1 from Influenza.

All the cases of Scarlet Fever were mild in type. My attention having been drawn to the urgent need for isolation of one case at Allens Rough, to prevent probable infection of lying-in women who are specially liable to contract the disease in a very acute form, special arrangements were made for the admission of the child into the Wolverhampton Borough Hospital, no other Hospital being available. In the other cases efforts were made to obtain the best isolation possible at their homes ; and in two instances where sweets and drapery were sold, it is believed business was voluntarily suspended, until the sick had recovered.

The cases of Typhoid Fever were all in one house at Ashmore Lake. A nuisance from a cess-pit and blocked drain at the rear of

the house was discovered and speedily abated. The man first attacked was a frequent purchaser of mussels and oysters from itinerant vendors at inns and football matches—a frequent cause of the disease, when the shell-fish have been taken from sewage-polluted water.

With regard to Measles and Whooping Cough, the Council may remember that in my last Annual Report I pointed out the possible or probable harm which might ensue in 1909 at Short Heath, if the *paramount* authority of the Council in sanitary matters was not fully recognised; and I made an appeal to the Schoolmasters through the Council, to loyally accept the advice tendered by the Officers of the Council. I believe that advice was accepted and acted on in Short Heath. The County Medical Officer of Health in his Annual Report for 1908 did not discuss the points specifically raised by me. He may or may not differ from me and other Medical gentlemen on certain points. Within certain limits there is always room for differences of opinion, and there always will be, so long as the Science and Practice of Preventive Medicine is progressive. I am always open to reconsider any decision I may have arrived at, when facts or forceful arguments are placed before me—but, regarding Measles and Whooping Cough as by far the most serious and fatal diseases of infant school life, at the present time I consider it more necessary to advise exclusion from school of all children living in houses infected by those diseases, and for the time I have hitherto advised, than for any other infectious diseases except Small Pox and Scarlet Fever.

The County Medical Officer of Health however, in the same Report writes “The authority of the local medical officer of health should be supreme as regards the measures to be adopted for safeguarding the public health of his district, and any action on the part of an outside Authority which conflicts with his procedure is strongly to be deprecated. No school teacher, or school attendance officer, therefore, should endeavour to get children to attend school in opposition to the directions of the local medical officer of health, and if this has taken place in the past, it must be prevented from

happening in the future. The County Education Authority accept this view of the situation, and have taken steps to prevent any such occurrence as has been complained of being repeated." This is exactly the kind of pronouncement I aimed at getting, when last year I discussed the subject fully in my Annual Report to the Willenhall District Council, and incidentally in that to the Short Heath District Council, because the local Education Committee of the County Council overlaps both Districts.

The cases of Chicken Pox and Mumps were fairly numerous, but call for no special comment.

There was not a single case of Infantile Diarrhœa reported during the year,—a fact which seems to point to purity of water supply and fairly satisfactory surroundings of domestic premises.

The Death Rate from Pulmonary Consumption was 0·25 per thousand per year, and from all forms of Consumption 0·75 per thousand per year—rates much below those of last year in Short Heath, and also much below those of England as a whole in previous years. Two cases of Pulmonary Consumption were certified under the "Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1908" which came into force in the District, January 1st 1909. A Memorandum was issued by the Local Government Board early in the year on administrative measures against Tuberculosis. Some of the measures recommended have for many years been adopted in Short Heath, whilst others, on financial grounds, are outside the range of possibility. The disease, whilst often due to miserable surroundings, is quite as often due to ignorance. It is as much an Infectious Disease as Small Pox is; but with this difference—that whereas the germ which produces Small Pox spreads with great rapidity from one person to another, and the person it attacks either dies or throws off the disease in from 4 to 6 weeks, the bacillus which produces Pulmonary Consumption is contained in the spit of Consumptive persons, and is conveyed to other persons directly or indirectly from that source, operates usually very slowly in the bodies of the persons attacked, and destroys life after years of suffering, throughout which the sufferer has the power to infect other persons, and con-

sciously or unconsciously succeeds in doing so to such an extent, that the aggregate deaths in the past 50 years from Consumption may be represented as a mountain, whilst those due to Small Pox, which causes far more terror, may be represented by comparison as a mole-hill. I, therefore, advised the Council, that the first effective steps they could take were to educate the people how to avoid catching the disease ; to educate Consumptive persons how they can best prolong their own lives and diminish the risk of communicating the disease to others ; to educate the sufferers' friends and relations how best they can avoid being infected by their friends and relations ; and by providing proper spitting bottles for those who are unable to get them for themselves—after which, further administrative measures might be considered. A suggestion that I might be authorized by the Council to draw up a code of rules for circulation, calculated to help the people to avoid “catching” Consumption and other infectious diseases, resulted in the printing of leaflets to be distributed at the households of sufferers from Pulmonary Consumption, Measles, Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria, Mumps, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever—copies of which will be enclosed for the information of the Local Government Board and County Council, when this Report is forwarded to them.

The Sanitary Inspector, acting under my supervision, made an inspection of every house in the District. There are 842 houses, of which 16 were void, having in the aggregate 2046 bedrooms, 548 sanitary conveniences chiefly of the cess-pit type, 307 ashpits water-tight above and below, 94 open ashpits and 35 water closets of wash-down or waste-water types—showing a continuance of gradual improvement. The night-soil was removed satisfactorily by contract. The sanitary conveniences were maintained in fairly satisfactory condition, for structures of that type. The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, has not been adopted, but I understand the Council will in future aim at substituting water closets for privy cess-pits as they get out of order ; at getting, if possible, water closets for new properties ; and small ashpits, ventilated and water-tight above, with cemented brick floors above the

ground level. The cost of water supply is likely to be a great hindrance to the putting in of many closets of the wash-down type, —a type greatly superior to the waste-water type. The nuisance at Lane Head, referred to in my last annual report, has not been remedied. The sewage-disposal works at New Invention continue satisfactory and create no nuisance. No further steps have been taken to erect sewage-disposal works at Clarkes Lane, but the tenant has distributed the sewage over the land. Sewer extensions have been made from the Wesleyan Chapel, Short Heath Village, along Coltham Road and Church Road to the sewer in Bloxwich Road already made, thus causing *all* the sewage of the Village to go towards Swan Lane and under the canal. The bake-houses, dairies, cowsheds and milk-shops were regularly inspected and kept in fair order. The two slaughter-houses were also regularly inspected, sometimes at killing-times, but not systematically at those times. No diseased meat, nor unwholesome food was condemned. The Inspector does not hold a special certificate for meat inspection. When in doubt, he seeks my advice—but there is reason to believe that most of the meat recently on sale has been good, probably all of it. The Council has taken no action to cause dairy cows to be examined by a veterinary surgeon. Table 6 shows a year's useful work. It is anticipated all the outstanding notices will soon be complied with.

The new Council School at New Invention is provided with hopper and sash cross ventilation, and wash-down water closets. It is an excellent building and in first-rate order. The Lane Head Council School is in capital order, and has similar sanitary accommodation. Holy Trinity School is in a very fair sanitary condition. The outside accommodation consists of covered ashpit and small galvanized pans which are frequently emptied. At date of inspection there was no nuisance from them.

During the year I inspected 4 factories and 18 workshops, and requested that 21 of these might be limewashed by a given date, continuing my aim to get every shop limewashed once a year. The Inspector reports that in every case my verbal request was sub-

sequently complied with. Two nuisances, one from smoke and one from foul drain near a workshop have since been abated. By bye-law 11, pigs and pig dung should be at least 60 feet from a dwelling house, and workshops must be kept free from damaging effluvia. Pigs were kept at Mr. H. E. Fletcher's, near the new Chapel, New Invention, and at Mr. T. Wilkinson's, Sneyd Lane, about 40 feet from the workshops, considerably more from the dwelling houses. Both houses are in an open situation, and the pigsties at both places were clean. In my opinion, they did not cause a nuisance in the workshops. There was no overcrowding; the Factory Abstract was posted up where-ever required. Fourteen addresses of out-workers were received from other Councils, relating to 10 out-workers' premises. All the shops in which they work are inspected from time to time. Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendments Act, 1890, is in force, and the standard of sanitary accommodation aimed at, is that suggested by the Home Office. At the end of the year there were 10 factories and 51 workshops occupied and 10 workshops void.

The water supply was good and plentiful at all the Schools, and throughout the District.

Beyond some enquiries, I understand the Council have taken no further steps relating to the Midwives Act, 1902. After April 1st, 1910, no woman may habitually attend women in child-birth, except under the direction of a Doctor, unless certified under that Act.

The births of 131 children were registered, of whom 128 were legitimate, and 3 illegitimate.

There were 46 cases of successful primary vaccination; 57 obtained Exemption Certificates; 7 died without having been vaccinated; and the vaccination of 21 was postponed. This is a deplorable record; for which the penalty will sooner or later be exacted.

All the deaths were certified by Doctor or Coroner.

The Tables required by the Local Government Board, County Council, and the Home Office, are in substance appended.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN T. HARTILL,

M. O. H.

Willenhall,

January 22nd, 1910.

Table 1.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-resi- dents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number	Rate*	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1899	3531	135	38.2	28	207.4	55	15.5			0	55	15.5
1900	3531	130	36.8	15	115.3	72	20.3			0	72	20.3
1901	3531	135	38.2	19	140.7	47	13.3			1	48	13.5
1902	3610	162	44.8	21	129.6	44	12.1			2	46	12.7
1903	3649	148	40.5	20	135.1	69	18.9			4	73	20.0
1904	3749	141	37.6	14	99.2	41	10.9			3	44	11.7
1905	3783	128	33.8	25	195.3	69	18.2			8	77	20.3
1906	3808	134	35.1	17	126.8	47	12.3			3	50	13.1
1907	3842	123	32.0	15	121.9	50	13.0			0	50	13.0
1908	3956	152	38.4	21	138.1	56	14.1			6	62	15.6
Averages for years 1899-1903	3699	138.8	37.5	19.5	140.9	55	14.8	0	0	2.7	57.7	15.5
1909	3989	131	32.8	16	122.1	56	14.0	0	0	5	61	15.2

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) } 1063

Total population at all ages 3531
Number of inhabited houses 722
Average number of persons per house 4.8 } At Census of 1901

NOTE.—Columns 9, 10, and 11.—There are no Public Institutions *in the District*.

The Township of Short Heath now embraces the old Local Board District of Short Heath, plus part of Wednesfield old Local Board District.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the District on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the District on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

Table 2.

LOCALITIES.

Not filled up, as there are no recognised divisions
of known population,

Table 3.**Cases of Infectious Disease certified during the year.**

	At all Ages	At Ages— Years.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upw'ds
Scarlet Fever ...	13		5	7	1		
Typhoid Fever ...	3		1			2	
Pulmonary Consumption } — Poor Law ...	2					2	
Totals ...	18		6	7	1	4	0

Other Cases of Infectious Disease which came to my knowledge.

	At all Ages	At Ages— Years.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upw'ds
Chicken Pox ...	28		11	16	1		
Diarrhœa ...	2					2	
Measles ...	22		12	9	1		
Whooping Cough	5		3	2			
Mumps ...	27		7	19	1		
Influenza ...	2					2	
Totals ...	86	0	33	46	3	4	0

Table 4.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox								
Measles	1		1					
Scarlet Fever								
Whooping-cough	2		2					
Diphtheria and membranous croup								
Croup								
Fever { Typhus								
{ Enteric								
{ Other continued								
Epidemic Influenza	1					1		
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhœa								
Enteritis								
Gastritis	1					1		
Puerperal Fever... ..								
Erysipelas								
Other Septic Diseases								
Phthisis	1					1		
Other Tubercular Diseases	2	2						
Cancer, malignant disease	3					3		
Bronchitis	6	1				4	1	
Pneumonia	3		2				1	
Pleurisy	1			1				
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1					1		
Alcoholism								
Cirrhosis of Liver								
Venereal Diseases	1	1						
Premature Birth	4	4						
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition								
Heart Diseases	5					3	2	
Accidents... ..								
Suicides								
Found Drowned... ..	2					2		
All other causes	27	8	1	1	2	4	11	
All causes	61	16	6	2	2	20	15	0

Table 5.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES.	{	Certified	3	1		2	6		2	1	1	1	2		2				1	16
		Uncertified																		0
Common Infectious Diseases.	{	Small-pox																		
		Chicken-pox																		
		Measles																		
		Scarlet Fever																		
		Diphtheria : Croup																		
		Whooping Cough																		
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	{	Diarrhœa, all forms																		
		Enteritis (not Tuberculous) }																		
		Gastritis, Gastro- intestinal Catarrh }																		
Wasting Diseases.	{	Premature Birth	3	1			4													4
		Congenital Defects																		
		Injury at Birth																		
		Want of Breast-milk																		
		Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus }				2	2	1		1		1		1						5
Tuberculous Diseases.	{	Tuberculous Meningitis											1					1	2	
		Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica }																		
		Other Tuberculous Diseases }																		
		Erysipelas										1							1	
		Syphilis																		
		Rickets																		
		Meningitis (not Tuberculous) }																		
		Convulsions														1			1	
		Bronchitis								1									1	
		Laryngitis																		
		Pneumonia																		
		Suffocation, overlaying																		
		Other Causes							1		1								2	
				3	1	0	2	6	0	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	16

Births in the year	{	Legitimate	...	...	128
		Illegitimate	...	...	3
Deaths in the year	{	Legitimate infants	...		14
		Illegitimate infants	...		2

TABLE 6.**SUMMARY OF WORK BY INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.**

Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	842
Schools	„	...	...	...	...	...	3
Workshops and Factories inspected, including Bakehouses	...						29
Dairies inspected quarterly	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cowsheds	„	„	...	...	...	...	5
Slaughter-houses inspected quarterly	...		...	...	...	...	2
Ashpits and Privies inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	949
Pigsties inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Informal Notices to remedy foul conditions of houses and their appurtenances	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Informal Notices to remedy structural defects of Dwelling							
Houses and their appurtenances	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Informal Notice of House unfit for Habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
House closed after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Formal Notice to abate Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Abatement after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Informal Notices to abate Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Informal Notices to abate nuisances from Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Formal Notices to remedy faults in House Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Informal Notices to remedy faults in House Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Informal Notices to abate nuisances from Pigsties	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

(Continued.)

TABLE 6 (continued).

Informal Notices to limewash and cleanse Workshops and	
Factories	21
Notices complied with	21
Informal Notices to abate other nuisances in or near Workshops	2
Abatements after Notice	1
Informal Notices to abate other Nuisances	6
Abatements after Notice	6
Formal Notices in 1908 complied with in 1909	12
Informal ,, ,, ,, ,,	10
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	13

Table 7.**Abstract of Particulars asked for by Home Office.**

Factories—Inspections	...	...	8	Written Notices	0
Workshops	„	...	43	„	0

Defects found :

Want of Cleanliness	...	...	21	Remedied	...	21
*Defective Sanitary Accommodation	0			„	...	0
Other Nuisances	...	...	4	„	...	2

Homework :

Lists received from Employers—0

Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils—14.

Workshops on Register at end of 1909—61 Occupied—51.

Chief Trades therein :

Lock Manufacture	...	...	26
Key	„	...	19
Bake-houses	...	...	2
File-cutting	...	...	1
Blacksmith	...	...	2
Carpenter	...	...	1

Factories in District 10

Trades therein :

Lock Manufacture	...	...	6
Key	...	...	2
Gas	...	...	1
Stamping	...	...	1

*Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendments Acts, 1890, is in force in the District.

